

SENATE FINANCE & CLAIMS

Exhibit No. 68

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Jeffrey S. McDowell, Executive Director



March 21, 2011

The Honorable Dave Lewis
Chairman, Finance and Claims Committee
Montana Senate
PO Box 200500
Helena MT 59620-0500

Chairman Lewis:

I am writing to urge you and the rest of the Montana Senate to restore funding to the Department of Commerce Primary Business Sector Training in HB 2 (Section A).

As you will see by the attached summary from the Department of Commerce, this program generates a considerable return to the state. This is an economic-development program that works. In the competition to attract primary businesses to Montana, economic developers such as myself need every possible advantage.

Thank you in advance for your consideration of the New Worker Training Program. If I may be of further assistance, please let me know.

Regards,

Jeffrey S. McDowell
Executive Director

cc: Senate Finance and Claims Committee

Workforce Training Grants (WTG)

Summary of Economic Benefits Report Findings

In 2005, the Montana Legislature funded the Primary Sector Workforce Training Act to encourage the creation of good-paying jobs in primary sector businesses. Funds are awarded to companies to train new employees.*

*existing employees are eligible during the 2011 biennium

Program Impacts

Companies Awarded Funds	26 Firms
Companies New to Montana	13 Firms
Total Funding Awarded to Companies (since '05)	\$ 9.1 Million
Total Employee Income Tax Revenue/yr.	\$11.7 Million
Total Project Investment	\$228.4 Million
New Jobs Trained	2,695 Jobs
Training for Incumbent Jobs	341 Jobs
New Jobs Total Wages and Salaries	\$ 101.5 Million
Total Employees Supported by these Projects	9,136 employees
Total Wages and Salaries All Employees	\$282.8 Million
Construction Investment	\$137.5 Million
New Buildings Added	8 New Buildings
Equipment Investment	\$67.8 Million
Added Property Tax Revenues	\$ 2.5 Million
Companies Partnering with Colleges	11 Firms